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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/043,768	01/10/2002	Peter Alan Levine	SAR 14043	7294
26581	7590	06/03/2005	EXAMINER	
RATNERPRESTIA P.O. BOX 980 VALLEY FORGE, PA 19482-0980			HO, TUAN V	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2615	

DATE MAILED: 06/03/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/043,768

Applicant(s)

LEVINE ET AL.

Examiner

Tuan V. Ho

Art Unit

2615

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 12-19 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2-11 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 January 2002 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>01/10/02</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

Art Unit: 2615

1. The drawings are objected to because "hand writing" is used in legends of Figs. 9. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Applicant is required to submit a proposed drawing correction in reply to this Office action. However, formal correction of the noted defect may be deferred until after the examiner has considered the proposed drawing correction.

Failure to timely submit the proposed drawing correction will result in the abandonment of the application.

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Heller et al (US 6,396,539).

Art Unit: 2615

Heller et al discloses in Fig. 2, an integrated imaging device that comprises the substrate of a semiconductor material (CMOS process on a single chip 10, col. 3, line 55), an imaging array formed in said substrate and having a plurality of picture elements (pixels) each pixel being adapted to receive light and convert the light to an electrical signal (image sensor array 12 includes light sensing elements, col. 3, lines 56-59), said imaging array having an output port for providing the electrical signals from the pixels representing an active video image (analog signal connection bus 20, col. 3, line 61), first circuit formed in said substrate and connected to receive the pixel signals and for analyzing the pixel signals to provide a defective pixel output signal indicating if any one pixel of the plurality of pixels in the imaging array is defective, as the pixel signal corresponding to the one pixel is processed by the first circuit (as disclosed in Fig. 4, controller unit 16 is connected to sensor array 12, receives image signals and determines a defective pixel by using pixel data of memory 14 and outputs defective pixel signals through output port 18 for post processing, col. 6, lines 50-67 and col. 7, lines 1-32, col. 8, lines 39-67).

Art Unit: 2615

3. Claims 2-11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

4. Claims 12-19 are allowed.

The prior art of record fails to suggest or disclose a method for processing video signals representing at least one video image, each video image including a plurality of picture element (pixel) comprising the steps of filtering a plurality of pixel values adjacent to the one pixel in the at least one video image to provide an output signal; processing the output signal to establish a range of values including the output signal; and comparing the one pixel to the range of values to provide a defective pixel output signal if the one pixel has a value outside of the range of values.

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Post (US 2002/0149683 A1) discloses a defective correction system that includes post ADC processing circuit to correct a defective pixel.

Art Unit: 2615

Suzuki (US 5,327,246) discloses pixel defect removing circuit that comprises a pixel value selector.

Takayama et al (US 6,683,643) discloses an electronic camera that includes a pixel correction circuit.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TUAN HO whose telephone number is (571) 272-7365. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri from 7AM to 4PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's acting supervisor, JIM GROODY can be reached on (571) 272-7950. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Customer Service whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.



TUAN HO

Primary Examiner

Art Unit 2615